THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A reference was received from Government of Kerala for exploring the possibility and to make use of Coir Geo-textiles for construction, development and strengthening of border roads.

(c) and (d) Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has considered the use of Coir Geo-textiles in road construction. After discussions with Coir board officials, it has been decided that BRO, jointly with Coir Baord, will take up a road stretch for laying the woven Coir Geo-textile to ascertain its efficacy and economy.

Joint sea patrolling in Mumbai

790. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether joint sea patrolling by the Navy, Customs and the State Police in Mumbai need funds to procure equipment to check smuggling;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken to provide funds and equipments to check ISI activities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The hardware, equipment and financial resources of the Navy and the Coast Guard are reviewed and upgraded from time to time. The Navy and Coast Guard carry out regular surveillance and patrol to protect the interest of the country. In this regard special operations in coordination with other Central and State Government agencies are also carried out.

Indian soldiers detained in Pak jails

† 791. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even now many Indian soldiers have been detained in Pak jails;

(b) if so, the number of soldiers detained therein; and

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.